

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



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MFL-6001
9 January 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--December 1985

I. GENERAL

The highlight of the month, or the year for that matter, occurred on 30 December when the bureau was visited by Mr. William J. Casey, Director of Central Intelligence. The visit to Key West lasted exactly 3 hours and included a tour of the bureau, during which he chatted individually with all members of staff on duty, a 30-minute walk around Olde Towne, and a VIP tour of Mel Fisher's Treasure Exhibit. Although arranged on very short notice, I believe he enjoyed his brief visit.

Footdragging by Dynalectron's insurance company has delayed arrangements for repair of bureau roof damaged in November. All paperwork is now complete and repairs should commence by late March when all materials are on site.

Construction of the FBIS housing on Truman Annex has been proceeding slowly. The Navy's resident officer in charge of construction advises that all foundation work should be finished by 15 January and that the pace should pick up considerably from that point. NASKW Commanding Officer Capt. Ray Sullivan said he received a brief grilling on our housing project from a local cable TV talk show hostess, with reference to the "despoiling" of a scenic piece of land on the Southernmost Point in the continental U.S., adding that he does not think any further flack will be forthcoming.

Early in December the bureau was visited by a group of specialists from Lockheed Electronics, accompanied by C/ADD [redacted] for familiarization with field bureau operations prior to development of the automated field system (AFS) planned for all bureaus. Allocation of space for the hardware required by the AFS, as well as a backup CAC system for computer area, will require careful planning as space is limited.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Cuban President Fidel Castro had a banner year in 1985 for speeches and press conferences. He appeared before the television cameras a total of 25 times, with the main topic of these appearances the "unpayable" Third World foreign debt. Cuba hosted a number of meetings and conferences of this subject throughout the year at what must have been an enormous expense.

Castro finished out the year with four speeches in December, all of which were processed in their entirety at Key West. Two events, the seventh Latin American Film Festival (2-16 December) and the ninth meeting of the National Assembly of People's Government (27-28 December), required a constant watch of Havana TV networks because of unannounced coverage of the sessions. Live coverage of one of the Assembly sessions revealed that the problem of labor indiscipline has become a significant issue in Cuba. Havana coverage of Castro's closing remarks to the Assembly, reportedly 2 and 1/2 hours long, consisted of a 50-minute announcer-read report with only 1,400 words of recorded Castro remarks. This is the first time in institutional memory that Havana media severely abbreviated a major Castro speech.

Other highlights from Cuba included reportage on Vice President Rodriguez' visit to Caracas for a SELA meeting, continued propaganda on U.S. support for the "contras" in Nicaragua, the situation in South Africa, the absence of domestic media reports on the attempt to kidnap a Cuban defector in Madrid, the first heart transplant in Cuban medical history, and a pre-Christmas visit by GDR Politburo member Kurt Hager to officiate alongside Castro at the inauguration of a brewery in Camaguey built with GDR assistance.

Preparations are well underway for the upcoming Cuban Communist Party congress in early February. Panama Bureau is loaning us two monitors and one teletypist and Headquarters will send a field-experienced editor to assist in the anticipated heavy workload.

In the Caribbean, Haiti announced changes in the cabinet and police hierarchy following serious demonstrations against the Duvalier regime by students. The ruling party in the Dominican Republic finally decided on a presidential candidate after months of acrimonious debate, and the 9 December elections in Guyana, won by Forbes Burnham heir Hugh D. Hoyte, generated heated protests and charges of fraud by opposition parties. All churches, some labor unions, and main opposition leader

Cheddi Jagan promoted rallies and a general strike in an attempt to bring the government down. In the Netherlands Antilles Domenico Martina formed a new government after general elections in early December, and French President Francois Mitterrand visited Martinique and Guadeloupe in hopes of deflating the pro-independence activities of rebellious groups.

B. Communications

The Navy Communications Unit at Boca Chica advised that their request, on behalf of FBIS, for a software change on the new Mode I RIXT computer has been approved and will be implemented soon after the first of the year. Until the change is effected all bureau traffic must be handled manually at Headquarters. As promised, the new Mode I installed in October has significantly reduced primary circuit downtime, with December outages totaling only 14 hours.

C. Technical

Dynalectron Corp. completed the rehabilitation portion of the antenna maintenance contract on 3 January, with the exception of replacing the fallen 80-ft Rohn TV tower. New tower sections are on site and will be erected in late January after installation of new concrete base and anchor footings. Construction and installation of anchor footings will be at bureau expense (\$4.5K) as original guy anchors did not meet proper specifications for tower height and soil conditions.

Loss of the bureau's primary TV antenna has led to a total redesign of system, prompted by unavailability of replacement for log periodic quad-array on old tower dedicated to Channels 7-13. Bureau is in process of procuring Scala yagi antennas precut to single frequencies, which should significantly improve reception of primary Havana Channels 9 and 13. The new temporary broadband VHF antenna is not only providing a more reliable signal, but also brings in good color video for much of the broadcast day.

The bureau's "temporary" 750-ft longwire oriented 97 degrees true north, which terminates on adjacent NSGA property, had to be dismantled for approximately 4 weeks due to construction work on NSGA's antenna field. This antenna provides best reception of most eastern Caribbean targets, particularly the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. Antenna should be restored by mid to late January.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

The monitor recruiting picture brightened somewhat with the successful testing of a local NSGA employee who plans to resign from the Navy this summer. PHS package for [redacted] will be forwarded for processing upon receipt. EOD processing for monitor/editor candidates [redacted] and [redacted] appears to be back on track after unavoidable delays.

*got news
still slow, though*

A revised position description for the monitor/editor slot was forwarded to Headquarters at MOD request.

B. Building & Grounds

[redacted] a local contractor, completed installation and paving of new driveway and parking area on 7 January. As for the housing project, Navy resident officer in charge of construction estimates it was 7-10 percent complete by end of December and, as noted earlier, should proceed more rapidly once foundation work is complete. Excavation of second and third foundation sites proceeded smoothly and without any further change orders.

IV. VISITS

1. On 3 December bureau chief visited Navy's transmitter site on Saddlebunch Key, maintained and operated by Dynalectron Corp., for briefing and orientation; visit included inspection of VOA/Radio Marti's 50-KW backup transmitter housed in portable vans and maintained by Army personnel.

2. C/ADD [redacted] visited bureau 9-11 December in conjunction with Lockheed contractors' familiarization TDY.

3. DD/OCPAS [redacted] visited bureau on 9 December for brief orientation while in Key West for a conference.

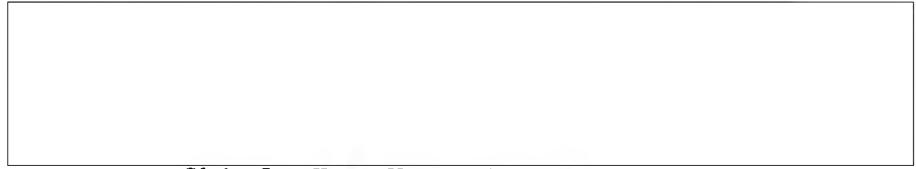
4. A four-man team of contractors from Lockheed Electronics, led by [redacted] visited bureau 10-12 December for orientation on field operations prior to design of planned automated field system.

5. Navy CDR Phil McKnight, new director of J-6/COMUSFORCARIB, visited bureau 18 December for orientation and briefing on bureau operations and discussion of communications support from his unit.

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6. DRD editor [redacted] visited bureau on 26 December
while in Key West on private travel.

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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:
Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 126,420

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 20,230

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 500

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK)	2,575 MIN	14,700 MIN	21 ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>520</u>
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English	<u>440</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English	<u>39,580</u>
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English	<u>590</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English	<u>370</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>160</u>
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>7,650</u>
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>7,260</u>
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>3,310</u>
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>1,850</u>
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1985

CUBA

Havana Tele-Rebelde Network 28,000
in Spanish

Havana Television Cubana Network -0-
in Spanish

Havana Television Service 7,910
in Spanish

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena -0-
in Spanish

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO 1,400
in Spanish

JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service 1,280
in English

Kingston DAILY GLEANER -0-
in English

Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER -0-
in English

MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX 17,780
in Spanish

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio 5,890
in English

THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International 850
in English

OTHER SOURCES:

BELIZE

Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES 180
in English

GUYANA

Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service 460
in English

SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service 940
in English